IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, the pending claims are reproduced below. Claims 23-27, 29, 31, 33 and 35 are newly cancelled.

Claims 1-27 (Cancelled)

28. (Previously presented) A method for determining the presence or amount of at least one target ligand in a fluid sample, the method comprising:

a. contacting a fluid sample suspected of containing said target ligand with a ligand analogue conjugate and a ligand receptor, said ligand analogue conjugate comprising at least one ligand analogue coupled to a signal development element comprising a water soluble hybrid phthalocyanine derivative, to form a homogeneous reaction mixture, whereby said ligand analogue conjugate competes with said target ligand for binding to said ligand receptor, wherein said water soluble hybrid phthalocyanine derivative is a tetraazapyrrole molecule, wherein (i) at least one of the four pyrrole moieties is fused to a single carbocyclic ring to form a phthalocyanine subunit, (ii) each of the other three pyrrole moietie is fused to between zero and three carbocyclic rings to form a subunit selected from the group consisting of an azaporphine subunit, a phthalocyanine subunit, a naphthalocyanine subunit and an anthranylocyanine subunit, and (iii) at least two of the four pyrrole moieties comprises a different number of carbocyclic rings fused thereto;

b. generating a detectable signal from ligand analogue conjugate bound to said ligand receptor in said reaction mixture; and

c. relating the detectable signal to the presence or amount of said target ligand in said fluid sample.

Claim 29 (Cancelled)

30. (Previously presented) A method for determining the presence or amount of at least one target ligand in a fluid sample, the method comprising:

a. contacting said fluid sample suspected of containing said target ligand with a ligand analogue conjugate and a ligand receptor, said ligand analogue conjugate comprising at least one ligand analogue coupled to a signal development element comprising a water soluble hybrid phthalocyanine derivative, to form a homogeneous reaction mixture, whereby said ligand analogue conjugate competes with said target ligand for binding to said ligand receptor, wherein said water soluble hybrid phthalocyanine derivative is a tetraazapyrrole molecule, wherein (i) at least one of the four pyrrole moieties is fused to a single carbocyclic ring to form a phthalocyanine subunit, (ii) each of the other three pyrrole moietie is fused to between zero and three carbocyclic rings to form a subunit selected from the group consisting of an azaporphine subunit, a phthalocyanine subunit, a naphthalocyanine subunit and an anthranylocyanine subunit, and (iii) at least two of the four pyrrole moieties comprises a different number of carbocyclic rings fused thereto;

b. generating a detectable signal from ligand analogue conjugate that is not bound to said ligand receptor in said reaction mixture; and

c. relating the detectable signal to the presence or amount of said target ligand in said fluid sample.

Claim 31 (Cancelled)

3 32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said ligand analogue conjugate bound to said ligand receptor is bound to a solid phase prior to generating a detectable signal therefrom.

Claim 33 (Cancelled)

4 34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said ligand analogue conjugate that is not bound to said ligand receptor is bound to a solid phase prior to generating a detectable signal therefrom.

Claim 35 (Cancelled)